RAJYA SABHA

Thursday, the 7th May, 1992/17 Vaisakha, 1914 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, Mr. **Chairman** in the **Chair.**

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*141 [*Transferred to the 13th May, 1992*].

CHAIRMAN : Question No. 142.

Imports by Britco in Coca-Cola joint venture

*142. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether beverage essences and flavours are allowed to be imported by Britco for their Coca Cola joint venture ; and

(b) what are the reasons for not allowing the import of proprietory ingredients by Pepsi Foods ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Import of proprietory ingredients were not allowed as per the policies prevalent at that time.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : Sir, under the residuary powers, you may have seen today the Bihar Governor's interview in the Hindustan Times, and I have given you notice under the residuary powers .... (*Interruptions*). Sir, this has never happened. I have given you notice for suspension of the Question Hour. What happened to it ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have not permitted it.

SHRI SUBRAMANIAN SWAMY : But you will kindly allow me to raise it. This is the most unprecedented constitutional crisis. The Chief Justice happens to be from the Scheduled Caste. It does not mean that we should overlook this fact.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : What happened to my question No. 141 ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is transferred.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Sir, the Pepsi had come, and now the Coca Cola comes, and the circle is complete. Yesterday our Minister of State for Industry, Mr. P. J. Kurien had stated in reply to the debate on his Ministry that Coca Cola have been granted licence in the best of national interest. I do not know what is national interest, in Mr. Kurien's perception. Whose thirst Coca Cola is going to quench, I do not know.

Sir, so far, in India, soft drinks were produced without any import of soft drink concentrates. No company, in the past, including Pepsi Foods, had been allowed to import soft drink concentrates, including flavours and essences. The hon. Minister has said, in reply to part (a) of my question, that Coca Cola has been permitted to import soft drink concentrates, including flavours and essences.

Part (a) of my first supplementary is under what circumstances, on what considerations, this particular company has been allowed to import soft drink concentrates, including flavours and essences, which, hitherto, was not allowed to any company, either foreign or domestic.

Part (b) of my first supplementary is, when Coca Cola was operating in this country prior to 1977, they were allowed to import 4.5 per cent of soft drink concentrates. Now, the Minister has not disclosed whether this percentage has been done away with, or, it has been increased. Therefore, my question is, what percentage of soft drink concentrates has been allowed to be imported and whether it is more than what they were allowed prior to 1977 ?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Sir the hon. Member has asked two questions, part (a) and (b). Part (a) of his question is, why has Government allowed Coca Cola to come back again. He compared it with the approval given to pepsi Foods. I have already answered, in the main question comparing these two, that when Pepsi was permitted to come in through a joint venture

project, at that time, the policy was different. Rather, it was very strictly enforced. Because of that, Pepsi had entered into an agreement. The agreement, along with the letter of intent, provided for strict terms. The stiffest terms and conditions were imposed. In regard to the question which the hon. Member had earlier asked as to why Pepsi had not fulfilled the obligations, it is under the examination of the Government. It is under the examination of the administrative Ministry. Because of the policy at that time, these restrictions were put.

Now, as you know, under the new policy of the Government, it is provided that any company can come here and invest money, particularly in terms of categorisation of priority sector industries. Under this policy-frame, Coca Cola has come in, in collaboration with JMRPCO, Britannia Industries Limited and a Maharashtra State Government agency. Coca cola is only a part. It is a part of package of proposals. The Joint Ventre company BRITCO will have two divisions. One is the Processed Snack Foods Division. The other is the Beverage Blending Division. And we have approved as per the letter given to the JMRPCO. About the second question which he has put, we have approved on the basis of the letter given by them.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : He has not replied to my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has given such a long reply.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : But not exactly what I wanted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You put it in brief. If you put a pointed question, you will get the answer.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It is a pointed question and a defused reply.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Actually his reply is, yes. That means, Coca Cola has been allowed to import soft drink concentrates.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That you have got. Now you put your question.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : What was the idea ? There must not be excessive import, particularly of the item which is available indigenously so that any foreign company does not get an upper hand over the domestic producer. That he has not replied. And what was the percentage permitted to Coca Cola prior to 1977 ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You want to know how much percentage is permitted. You put it that way.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : That was the second part of my supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If you ask a long question, he will give a long answer and the House will be the loser.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : There is no question of fixing percentage for import of soft drink concentrates. As per the information given by the Ministry, Parley has also imported. Coca Cola will also import like Parley. There is no discrimination between the two. As Parley and Pepsi Cola import, Coca Cola will also import.

Your question whether the indigenous producer will be affected does not arise.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Sir, ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has given you all the information that you wanted. Really speaking, no supplementary need now be put by anybody.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : My second supplementary is ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Your second supplementary is over because he has given a lengthy answer to all your supplementaries.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : I seek your protection. I have a second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : But he has answered all the supplementaries.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I will request my colleagues not to put any further supplementaries.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has given in one go answer to all the supplementaries.

(*Interruptions*). If you ask a long question, you will get a long answer. Already 13 minutes are lost.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Yesterday the Minister of State for Industry had ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have already discussed Industry. Mr. Ghosh, you understand everything. Please, you know everything and he has given you all the information. Now, please sit down.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : This is not related to his reply. I have a right to raise a second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no, I have given two supplementaries. Yes, Mr. Hanspal.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Yesterday Mr. Kurien had replied and I quote from the proceedings of the Rajya Sabha.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Then you tell somebody else sitting by your side. I will give him a chance.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : This is misleading the House. It relates to the misleading of the House by Mr. Kurien.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You can raise it later on.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : It is in connection with the reply given by Mr. Giridhar Gomango. (*Interruptions*). Should I not get a chance ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have got two supplementaries. You have already lost 14 minutes.

Yes, Shri Hanspal. We have lost 14 minutes.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You were allowed two supplementaries.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : No, I have not raised my second supplementary. Second supplementary you cannot deny me.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I say you have put two supplementaries. The matter ends. That's all. हंसपाल जी आप सवाल कर लीजिये । मैं छोटे छोटे सवाल-जवाब चाहता हूं । It doesn't mean that you put one supplementary and then say it is not expressed properly and so it is not a supplementary. No, no.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : The House has been misled by Mr. Kurien, in view of the reply given by Mr. Gomango.

MR. CHAIRMAN : With regard to that you can raise it later. Fifteen minutes are over.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : That is because of the Minister's failure to reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, he has given all the reply that was possible.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : No, he has not replied to my second supplementary.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has given all the reply that was possible.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Then how was the House misled by Mr. Kurien ?

... (*Interruptions*) ...

श्री सभापति : जितना जवाब देना था, दे दिया उन्होंने, अब क्या चाहिये । अब तो मेरी राय में इसके बाद कोई सप्लीमेंटरी की गुंजाइश ही नहीं रहती ।

श्री दीपेन घोष : कल पी० जे० कुरियन ने जवाब दिया था, वह सही जवाब नहीं दिया **(व्यवधान)**

SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA : The reply was given by the Minister.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : *करना चाहते हैं मंत्री जी को **(व्यवधान)**

श्री सभापति : हर जगह इन शब्दों का प्रयोग न करें तो अच्छा है, Let us not use* and all these .... (*Interruptions*) .... No, No, please, that is not fair. is not parliamentary.

*Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय : मेल कर रहे हैं।

श्री सभापति : मेल करिये, इसमें कोई आपत्ति नहीं है। Sixteen minutes are gone. *You will complain that I have not taken* more questions.

श्री हरवेन्द्र सिंह हंसपाल : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में यह कहा कि पेपसी कम्पनी के ऊपर कुछ स्टीपुलेशंस लगाई गई थीं, स्ट्रिक्ट स्टीपुलेशंस लगाई गई थीं। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि यह जो स्ट्रिक्ट स्टीपुलेशंस आपने लगाई थीं, क्या वह उन्होंने पूरी की हैं ? मेरी जानकारी यह है कि उन्होंने पंजाब के फारमर्ज के साथ खास तौर से और हिन्दुस्तान के किसानों के साथ आम तौर से कई लोगों के साथ कन्साइवेंस कर के चीटिंग की है। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूं कि क्या सरकार उनको इसके बारे में रोक सकी है या कोई रुकावट डाल सकी है। पेपसीको साफ्ट ड्रिंक्स और बिवरेजेज लगातार बना रही है और जो स्ट्रिक्ट स्टीपुलेशंस थी जिनके अनुसार उन्होंने बिवरेजेज बनाने थे, उन पर कुछ भी कम नहीं किया और सरकार भी उन को रोक नहीं सकी। अब आपने कोका कोला को इजाजत दे दी है। आपने कहा कि एक पेकेज आफ प्रोपोज़ल सेंक्शन किया है। मैं यह जानना चाहूंगा कि वह पेकेज आफ प्रोपोज़ल क्या है और उस पेकेज को अगर वह कम्पलीट नहीं करेंगे तो आपके पास क्या रास्ते हैं कि आप उसको इनफोर्स कर सकें ?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Sir, the question put by the hon. Member is not related to the main question.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : It is not.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : I can say that we are awaiting information from the Ministry of Law and Justice on the points which has been referred to them by the Ministry. I can reply after receipt of the inforamtion. I require another notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You require notice.

श्री महेश्वर सिंह : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय के ध्यान में यह लाना चाहूंगा कि आज देश में लाखों टन फल ज्यादा पक जाने की वजह से पर्याप्त फल विधायन की सुविधा उपलब्ध न होने के कारण बरबाद हो रहे हैं। आज जितने भी शीतल पेय पदार्थ उपलब्ध हैं उनमें केवल मात्र सिथेटिक है जो कि स्वास्थ्य के लिए हानिकारक है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहूंगा कि क्या सरकार इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि जितने भी शीतल पेय पदार्थ हैं, उनमें फल उत्पादकों को सुविधा देने की दृष्टि से और पेय पदार्थों को ज्यादा पोष्टिक बनाने की दृष्टि से इस बात पर विचार करेगी कि सभी शीतल पेय पदार्थों में 20 प्रतिशत फलों का रस होना अनिवार्य किया जाए ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you consider having 20 per cent fruit juice in every drink so that your fruits may not rot and they may get nourishment ? That is the question.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : There is no such proposal before the Government but we have got fruit and vegetable based soft drinks manufactured by industries.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He asks whether you will consider insisting that in soft drinks there should be at least 20 per cent fruit juice which will be more nourishing.

You cannot escape from this. इसका जवाब आपको देना पड़ेगा।

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Sir, no proposal ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You say that you will consider. Something you have to say. Answer it because it is relevant. "Soft drink" does not mean that you exclude fruit juice altogether.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Sir, no proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you consider what he has said ? This has been said in this House many times.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : We will examine it, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This question has been raised in this House many times. Apples are rotting at Kulu. You are the Food Processing Minister.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Sir, the same type of question was already answered by me ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You repeat it in short.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you consider insisting that at least 20 per cent fruit juice must be there. He is not asking you to say "yes" or "no". If you are considering, say, "We will consider it".

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : The Chair is protecting the Minister obviously.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : We will examine its technical feasibility.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will examine it.

SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Mr. Chairman, Sir, on the one hand I would like to put it on record that I do appreciate the policy of the Government to liberalise the economy. That is the main reason why there is home-coming for me. I have just one comment. Simply because I appreciate the liberalisation policy, while appreciating the liberalisation policy we cannot lose sight of the fact that we are opening the Pandora's Box when we are inviting multinationals. I would like to know from the Minister whether we have fixed any guidelines or there are any criteria which will be followed, which should be kept in mind before multinationals are allowed to have an entry into India.

Part (b) is, we have been discussing about Pepsi Cola day in and day out in Parliament and outside Parliament. As I understand, the same conditions have been stipulated for Coca Cola and Pepsi Cola. My question is whether the Pepsi Cola people have taken care to fulfil their part of the conditions. If not, what steps is the Government going to take to see that Pepsi Cola adheres to all the terms and conditions which have been stipulated in the agreement ? Will the hon. Minister give me an assurance that the same attitude will be there towards Coca Cola people when it comes to fulfilling the terms and conditions ?

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Sir, there are two question. First, the policy laid down by the Ministry of Industry, all the Ministries follow.

About the second part of the question regarding the Coca Cola Company, I have already replied to it in the main question. That is all.

About the liberalisation policy, the terms and conditions in regard to Pepsi Cola are not there with regard to Coca Cola.

In her third question she has asked me to give information ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Her question is very simple. Both are colas. You have put certain conditions for Pepsi Cola. Why have you not put those conditions for Coca Cola ? That it all she is asking.

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO : Sir, under the changed industrial policy, it was not a letter of intent which was, I think, accorded to Pepsi Cola. Here they only agreed to fulfil, and they agreed to put some proposal which has been approved by the Foreign Investment Board which has given approval to the foreign collaboration proposal. The two are different. She is asking why the restrictions have not been put on Coca Cola. Now the things have changed. So, this is different on the basis of the changed policy. ... (*Interruptions*).

SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Pepsi Cola has not followed the condition. Where is the guarantee that Coca Cola will abide by these conditions ? I want an assurance from the hon. Minister that he will see to it that ...

MR. CHAIRMAN : He has said what he had to say.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : You are protecting a particular Minister. I don't have any objection. But while protecting the Minister you are protecting the Government too. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have put the questions very clearly. What you were saying in long, I have put it in short. Both the questions I have put in short.

*143. [*The questioner (Shri Ghufran Azom) was absent, for answer vide* cols 29-30 *infra*]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, there is another point which I would like to make. It is the Prime Minister's day. He rarely comes to this House. Should he not come during Question Hour ? Should not the Pdime Minister grace this House with his presence on the Question day ? आना चाहिए उनको

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Sir, the Prime Minister has been continuously absenting from the House.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Sir, the Food Processing Department is also under the Prime Minister. If he had been present we would have got replies from him.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister of State has replied. He has given all the information that you needed.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : Last week also he was absent.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have pased on to Question No. 144.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : This House should not be taken for granted by the Prime Minister. No, Sir. He goes to the Lok Sabha. It is very unfortunate that the Rajya Sabha is being taken for granted.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : पूरे सेसन में कई बार बलैंजन आए प्रधान मंत्री के . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . . महोदय, पूरे सदन की कार्यवाही देख ली जाए, कितने दिन प्रधान मंत्री जी यहां आए हैं . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

श्री सभापति : दोनों जगह हाउस रहते हैं ।

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : प्रधानमंत्री जी दोनों सदनों के हैं, मगर इस हाउस में कितने दिन आए हैं . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : महोदय, प्रधानमंत्री जी दोनों सदनों के हैं । केवल लोकसभा के हैं तो अलग बात है । लेकिन, मैं इस पर प्रोटेस्ट करता हूं कि प्रधानमंत्री जी को राज्यसभा में आना चाहिए । यह राज्यसभा की अवहेलना का प्रश्न है, सदन की अवहेलना का प्रश्न है । राज्यसभा की यह आवाज प्रधानमंत्री तक पहुंचा दें ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : You all know that I cannot force the Prime Minister to be present at any . . . (*Interruptions*) Normally the Minister concerned should be here. The Minister of State is already here. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH : Sir, important questions are answered by the Prime Minister.

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : क्या प्रधानमंत्री की सदन में उपस्थिति आवश्यक नहीं है ? . . . (**व्यवधान**) . . .

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : लगातार इस तरह की प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा राज्यसभा की अवहेलना से हम को कष्ट हुआ है । हम लोग इसके लिए दुख व्यक्त करते हैं और प्रोटेस्ट करते हैं प्रधानमंत्री की इस अनुपस्थिति के लिए ।

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : Permit me to say that the Prime Minister has always . . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH : Why is the Minister of State defending him ? What is this ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Sir, it is that the Minister is representing you ? We are protesting for the Prime Minister being absent.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : The Prime Minister attends the House.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : I don't see him.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : If he is already busy with something very important, he cannot ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Prime Minister has got a number of ... (*Interruptions*) So, the Minister of State is here.

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : कितनी बार सदन में आए हैं, इसको हाऊस की कार्यवाही से देख लिया जाए । ... (**व्यवधान**)

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : हम यह कहना चाहते हैं कि प्रधानमंत्री जी अवहेलना करते रहें और कहा जाए कि कुछ नहीं हुआ । हम चाहते हैं कि सदस्यों की भावना प्रधानमंत्री तक पहुंचनी चाहिए ।

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question No. 144. The question has been put and Dr. Chinta Mohan is replying.

इजराइल के सहयोग से संयुक्त उर्वरक कारखाने लगाये जाने की योजना

*144 **डॉ० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन :**
श्री रणजीत सिंह :

क्या **प्रधान मंत्री** यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि क्या सरकार का ध्यान 6 अप्रैल, 1992 के "डेली टेलीग्राफ" में "जॉइन्ट फर्टिलाइजर यूनिट प्लान्ट विद इजराइल" शीर्षक से प्रकाशित समाचार की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इजराइल में उद्योग उच्च तकनीक का प्रयोग करके कम लागत पर उर्वरकों का अधिक उत्पादन करने की क्षमता रखते हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार देश में उर्वरकों की कमी की समस्या को हल करने के लिए इजराइल के सहयोग से उर्वरक कारखानें स्थापित किये जाने को प्रोत्साहित करने पर विचार कर रही है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Government's attention has been drawn to a news item under this caption in 'The Telegraph' of Calcutta of 6th April, 1992. However, no specific proposal has been received by Government in this regard.

(b) There is no information about the status of technology and its cost effectiveness for producing fertilizers in that country.

(c) Government's approach is to encourage setting up suitable joint venture plants for the manufacture of fertilizers in which India is deficient. However, no specific proposal has been received from Israel.

(d) Does not arise.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA : What about the Prime Minister ?

श्री दिग्विजय सिंह : मान्यवर, पूरे सदन का मामला है ।

श्री शंकर दयाल सिंह : चिंता का मामला है ।

श्री सभापति : वे आपकी चिंता का पूरा समाधान कर देंगे ... (**व्यवधान**) ... चिंता मोहन जी आपकी चिंता का समाधान कर देंगे ... (**व्यवधान**)

SHRI P. J. KURIEN : Sir, I remember, when I was on the other side, Mr. V. P. Singh never used to come.

*सभा में यह प्रश्न डा० जितेन्द्र कुमार जैन द्वारा पूछा गया।